

N.J. Solar Manufacturer Receives \$500,000 **Research Grant from State's Clean Energy Program**

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Lawrenceville, NJ - Energy Photovoltaics, Inc. (EPV), New Jersey's only solar electric manufacturer and R&D firm, announced today that it received a \$500,000 grant from the State of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. The winners of the competitive grants were announced today by New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities (BPU) commissioners. The grants are a critical part of the NJ BPU's Clean Energy Program, whose goal is to position New Jersey as a world leader in renewable energy, particularly the R&D, manufacturing, and deployment of solar electricity, as recently declared publicly by NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox.

The research and development grants were awarded to New Jersey renewable energy companies that are engaged in R&D for the purposes of improving the technology and inculcating the use of renewable energy in New Jersey. Out of a field of 33 applicants, EPV was the only solar manufacturer to receive the maximum grant of \$500,000 for a one-year R&D project.

EPV, founded in 1991, and located in the Princeton corridor, has been at the forefront of research, development, and commercialization of thin-film PV (photovoltaics) for more than a decade. The research proposal has the goal of further extending the commercial application of PV and building integrated PV (BIPV) for the dual purpose of lowering the cost of photovoltaics and increasing the use and deployment of PV in New Jersey. EPV's goal for the R&D award is to stimulate greater market penetration of thin-film PV modules through improvements in product performance, reduction in product cost, and enhanced product certifications. The R&D project will be a cost-shared research project in which EPV will fund one third of the project for a total project cost of \$750,000.

Photovoltaics (PV) has unique attributes that can provide major benefits to the New Jersey system for electric supply, but it is critical that the cost of PV electricity be reduced. With this program, and other development work, EPV expects to lower the cost of its thin-film PV modules to a level that will surpass all nationally and internationally made modules.

"Solar electricity in New Jersey took a major step forward today with these research grants, and the BPU has shown that it recognizes the importance of stimulating the ongoing development and commercialization of renewable energy sources", said Jim Groelinger, CEO of EPV. "This award will enable EPV to further lower the cost of photovoltaics and will lead to cleaner air, and a more reliable electric supply, for all New Jersey citizens". Further information on EPV is located at www.epv.net.

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